

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 13 –24 remain in the application. Claims 13 and 19 have been amended.

Claims 1 - 12 had been previously canceled.

More specifically, with regard to the claim amendments, the independent claims have been further clarified with regard to the assignment of "valid" or "invalid" to the symptoms and its effect on the reporting of the symptom validation data. If the item of symptom validation is "valid" then the system reports the classification. If the item of symptom validation is "invalid" then the system reports a reporting data item that is assigned to the classification.

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended. The Examiner's objection on page 2 of the Office action, and the suggestion, are appreciated. In addition to the suggested change, applicant has also removed the parenthetical expressions with the reference numerals from the Abstract.

The objection to the disclosure has been noted. It is respectfully believed that the verb form "derive" is proper in lines 3 and 4 of page 6.

The listing of the guidelines concerning the preferred layout of the specification has been noted. The preliminary amended submitted with the national stage application contained a section "Amendments to the Specification" in which the suggested sub-

headings were inserted into the translated text. The Examiner is requested to confirm that the subheadings have indeed been inserted.

We now turn to the art rejection in which claims 13 and 19 have been rejected as being anticipated by Ogata (JP 2-039397) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). We respectfully traverse.

To begin with, we do indeed agree with the Examiner that the remaining claims are indeed patentable over the reference Ogata. In that regard, the indicated allowability of claims 14-18 and 20-24 is appreciatively noted.

With reference to claims 13 and 19, we respectfully point to the above distinction – in the process and in the system – between the assignment of the items “valid” and “invalid” to the symptom. Ogata does not contain any disclosure that would point to the fundamentally different reporting treatment, namely, that if the item of symptom validation is “valid” then the system reports the classification and, if the item of symptom validation is “invalid” then the system reports a reporting data item that is assigned to the classification.

Reference is had to Fig. 2 and the corresponding description. The figure also shows the difference between the claimed invention and the prior art reference Ogata. Diagnostic systems which are suitable to classify fault data are known in the art. Typically, they are based on complicated algorithmic processing on the basis of mathematical models.

The invention pursues a different route in order to improve a corresponding system with regard to the effort required. The invention provides for simple further-processing and display of the symptoms on the basis of the classification and the assignment of validation information. In the case that the information item assigned to a symptom indicates that the symptom is "valid," then the validation information and the classification are reported. In the case, however, that the validation information indicates that the symptom is "invalid," only an item is reported which is associated with the classification. The process and the system are thus simplified to a considerable degree.

In other words, the claimed invention enables a simple yet very effective concept for validating fault symptoms. Neither the process nor the system are described, or fairly taught, in the prior art reference Ogata. The allowance of the claims is solicited.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for two months in the amount of \$450.00 is submitted concurrently. Please charge any other fees which might be due to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stermer LLP, No. 12-1099.

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